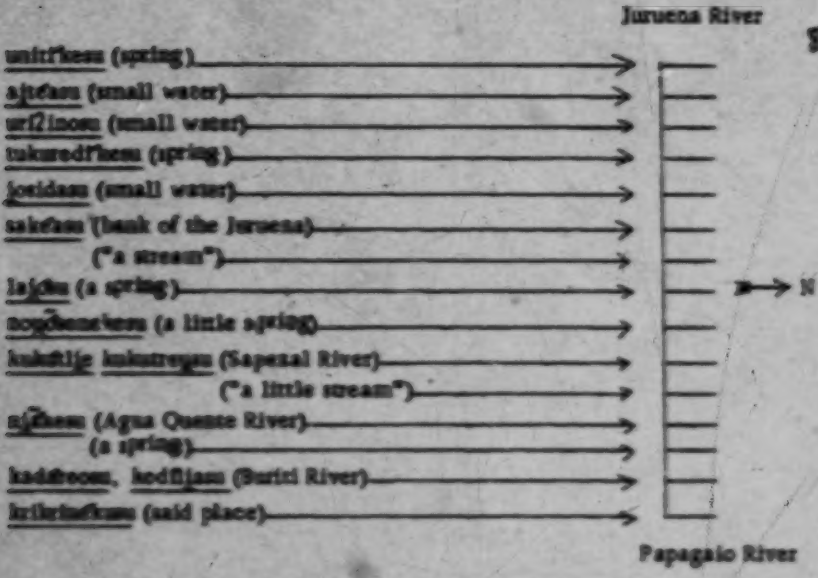

TRADITION

The Nambikwara have a sharp sense of tradition. We have read above (p. 50) a remark of Ri which shows him to be sadly cognizant of the decline of his race. Customs and techniques are generally considered as legacies of the "ancestors": [139] [[13 14]]

58. ketiõnu ikõtage ũʔtrige.
"The ancestors taught us how to coil it [the ribbon of rubber meant for making a ball]" (b1).

One single legend was found relating to the origin of the universe. [139] It is that of the Flood, the children' version of which we have already given. (1) Here is the text used by adults: 775 539

1. See above, p. 69.

59. nartõnu kõʔõtire
narukõtõtire nankanʔõnue
nahõtende kõtõ-rage nankõto uʔere tondige
the water had descended the water flooded Everyone to die